

Department of State ^{POL 14 VIETS} ⁽¹⁵⁴⁾
 TELEGRAM

XR Pol 15-2 Viet S

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44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UPW-01
AID-20 1095 W

R 181127Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8848
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USDEL: FRANCE
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

038292

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A, CDC, AR

REVIEWED BY Jean J. J. J. J. DATE 1/26/82

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: SENATORS CRITICIZE EXECUTIVE HANDLING OF ELECTIONS

1. DURING FREE DEBATE PERIOD AT START OF UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION AUG 18 (WHICH WAS CONVENED TO FINISH CONSIDERATION OF INVESTMENT BILL) SEVERAL SENATORS SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE EXECUTIVE HANDLING OF ELECTIONS. OPPOSITION LEADER VU VAN MAU (WHO HAS FORMED ANTI-RIGGING COMMITTEE) CHARGED THAT COMMANDER OF FIFTH ARVN DIVISION HAD TOLD HIS OFFICERS THEY MUST GUIDE SOLDIERS TO VOTE FOR PRO-EXECUTIVE LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES. MAU URGED MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO ISSUE AN ORDER FORBIDDING SUCH ACTIONS. OPPOSITION SENATOR TRAN DUY DON CLAIMED THAT A DISTRICT CHIEF HAD RECENTLY STATED AT A PUBLIC MEETING THAT GENERAL MINH IS A COMMUNIST. INDEPENDENT SENATOR LE CHAU LOC ACCUSED THREE PROVINCE CHIEFS OF ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES. PRO-EXECUTIVE SENATOR DAN VAN SUNG JOINED IN ATTACKS SAYING CHARGES MADE BY THE OTHERS WERE TRUE.

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SUNG RECOMMENDED THAT UPPER HOUSE SEND SPECIAL COMMITTEES TO THE PROVINCES TO STOP VIOLATIONS OF ELECTION LAW.

2. COMMENT: AS USUAL THE FREE DEBATE PERIOD ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY, BUT FACT THAT SENATORS CRITICIZING EXECUTIVE REPRESENTED WIDE SPECTRUM OF UPPER HOUSE GROUPS SHOWS MOOD DEVELOPING IN THAT BODY.
BERGER

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